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President: Mr. Munir (Vice-President) ..... (Pakistan)

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In the absence of Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Mr. Munir (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Panel discussion: "Bringing the Economic and Social Council system together"

1. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme), moderator, said that poverty manifested itself in many ways: lack of income, lack of access to services or opportunities, substandard access to health or education, food and nutrition insecurity, and heightened dependency on natural resources or the vicissitudes of informal activity. In addition, poor people were vulnerable to shocks: economic shocks, such as loss of income or employment, the impact of inflation, or a fall in commodity prices, and physical shocks such weather-related events, climate change and soil erosion. All those shocks could reverse the precarious gains that poor people had made in improving their livelihood and moving towards prosperity.

2. Policies that only addressed one dimension of poverty were inadequate. Most policies of the last two decades had focused on income poverty exclusively; they had been predicated on the assumption that if incomes rose the rest would fall into place, and the belief that the best way to raise incomes was to intensify and accelerate economic growth. However, economic growth did not always translate into better incomes for all, and gender disparity and unequal income distribution marred even strong overall growth. Under the Millennium Development Goals, poverty-eradication policies had not sufficiently focused on patterns of growth, or its inclusivity or sustainability; nor had they adequately addressed the issue of access to services. Often, because of a lack of government resources, even those with high incomes were unable to access essential services such as health care and education. Poor people tended to work in the informal economy, which made them vulnerable in different ways: for example, a farmer who could not access a market because of a washed-out rural road could not sell his produce. Those kinds of vulnerability were not reflected in statistics such as gross domestic product (GDP) or overall economic growth, but if the lives of the poor were linked to the natural environment, that must be taken into consideration in the development of poverty-reduction policies.

3. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a more integrated platform than the Millennium Development Goals and allowed for a better understanding of the interlinkages between interventions and developments in different areas. However, policy integration was difficult, hence the theme of the 2017 integration segment of the Economic and Social Council: making the eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies. During the current discussion the Council would seek to determine whether poverty eradication was an integral element of all policies already and, if so, to decide how that was demonstrated. In addition it would discuss whether current policies to address poverty responded to its multidimensional nature.

4. He asked the panellists to describe how their commission or subsidiary body had addressed the overall theme of the Economic and Social Council for 2017, namely eradicating poverty in all its forms; how it had addressed the issue of making poverty eradication an integral component of all policies; what conclusions it had drawn from its deliberations and what lessons could be learned from its work, and how those could best be transmitted to the high-level segment and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

5. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, and Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session), panellist, said that at its sixty-first session the Commission on the Status of Women had considered women's empowerment in the changing world of work. It had used that opportunity to build synergies with the Council's theme of making poverty eradication an integral objective of all policies. In addition to working to close gender gaps and improve working conditions for women, the Commission had examined the impact of changes brought about by innovation, technology, increasing human mobility and informality on women's right to work, and their rights at work, as well as on the status of the commitments to decent work and to full and productive employment. It had concentrated on the persistence of the feminization of poverty. The deliberations of the Commission had left no doubt that poverty impeded the empowerment of women and progress towards gender equality, which, in turn, were crucial to progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals. It had concluded that poverty eradication required policies that were targeted to reach all women suffering from multiple, intersecting forms of inequality, discrimination or marginalization.

6. At its sixty-first session the Commission had concluded that women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy was vital for achieving sustainable development, ending poverty in all its

forms everywhere, and ensuring the well-being of all. In its assessment of gaps and challenges, the Commission had included discriminatory norms that made women and girls more vulnerable to poverty. Current poverty measures did not adequately reflect women's vulnerability to poverty because of the inadequacy of the data available, including on income distribution within households. It had identified major gender gaps that increased women's vulnerability, including gaps related to wages, incomes, pensions, social security, workforce participation, recruitment and retention, unpaid care work and access to productive resources. The Commission had concluded that action was necessary in seven key areas to address those gaps and challenges; it had made corresponding policy recommendations to Governments and other stakeholders, which would contribute in an integrated way to poverty eradication. It had recommended that normative, legal and policy frameworks to tackle gender-based discrimination and the persistent work-related structural barriers should be strengthened; education, training and skills-development for women and girls should be strengthened; economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment should be implemented; informal work should be addressed with a view to improving the situation of women in informal work and, specifically, the mobility of informal women workers should be addressed; digital and technological change should be managed for women's economic empowerment; the collective voice of women and women's leadership in both the public and private sectors should be strengthened; and lastly, the private sector should take on a greater role in the economic empowerment of women.

7. With regard to making poverty eradication an integral objective of all policies, the Commission had consistently called for increased support for institutional mechanisms that facilitated gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. It had pressed for national mechanisms to be at the highest possible levels of government and to have sufficient funding, in order to ensure that a gender perspective was mainstreamed across all relevant local and national institutions, and that national planning, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting and institutional structures contributing to achieving gender equality and combating poverty among women and girls. The Commission had also consistently raised the need for greater investment to close resource gaps for gender equality. It had highlighted the key role that civil society groups must play in eradicating women's poverty, and the need to engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change. The Commission had called for improved collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics and data on the formal and informal economies, women's poverty, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to and ownership of assets and productive resources and women's participation at all levels of decision-making.

8. With regard to lessons that could be learned from its work, the Commission had called for evaluations of gender equality and the empowerment of women to be part of national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. On the basis of the conclusions reached at its sixtieth session, it had contributed a roadmap on gender-responsive implementation, providing advice and recommendations for consideration by the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The upcoming voluntary national reviews at the July 2017 high-level political forum would provide the relevant Member States with an opportunity to demonstrate how they were incorporating gender equality and women's empowerment into their poverty eradication efforts and into their strategies for achieving the other goals under review.

9. **Mr. Charwath** (Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, and Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-fifth session), panellist, said that the Commission for Social Development traditionally focused on four social groups: youth, persons with disabilities, older persons and families. The theme of "leaving no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda had made its work all the more relevant. In 2016 it had affirmed that it would contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda by supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum, and that it would report on social aspects of the integration of poverty eradication into all policies.

10. The Commission had chosen as its priority theme for its 2017-2018 review cycle "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all", and as its "emerging issue" it had chosen "Promoting integrated policies for poverty eradication: Youth Development in the 2030 Agenda"; in keeping with the theme of leaving no one behind, it would also focus on poverty and disability. All those themes were closely aligned with the annual theme chosen by the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. However, the Commission for Social Development operated on a two-year cycle, meaning that it would maintain the same themes in 2018, whereas the Council and the high-level political forum, which operated on a yearly

cycle, would have new themes. Cycle misalignment was a perennial problem that should be resolved.

11. The Commission had reached a number of conclusions at its last session: economic growth alone was not enough; policy interventions were needed to turn growth into pro-poor growth and reduce inequality. Human dignity remained at the heart of its work. It was important to examine absolute and relative definitions of poverty as well as absolute and relative inequality, both within and amongst countries. Data, particularly disaggregated data, was of paramount importance for monitoring and evaluation. Investment in people would lay the foundations for decent work and labour-generating growth. Therefore, it was important to ensure universal access to education and provide tailored education programmes, including vocational training, and to fight youth unemployment. Sectoral support and public works schemes could play a short-term role in fighting unemployment. In the long term it was necessary to build resilience to lift people out of poverty, through investment in health care and social protection. Since fiscal policies often had more impact than employment or social policies, an integrated policy approach across all policy areas and levels of government was called for. Institutions and government entities must be capable; political will and a wide societal consensus that poverty eradication was essential were prerequisites, as taxpayer money funded institutions and public policies. Inequalities within countries and economic areas, and the mutually reinforcing forms of exclusion often faced by women, youth and persons with disabilities should be tackled. Youth and disability must be mainstreamed into poverty eradication policies at the national level and within the United Nations system. The groups to be affected by policies must be included in policy design, and there was no one-size-fits-all approach to policy development.

12. The Commission for Social Development had adopted an inclusive approach over the last year: Member States and civil society organizations had participated in its deliberations and it had held numerous panel discussions. That inclusivity needed to be carried over to the work of the Council on the ground.

13. It would be beneficial for the Commission to produce an outcome document rather than only individual resolutions; currently the outcomes of its deliberations were not transmitted to the Economic and Social Council in a clear, systematic way. Failing that, its resolutions should be more directly related to the annual theme of the Economic and Social Council.

14. **Ms. Popescu** (Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations; and Vice-Chair of the Commission on Population and Development at its fiftieth session), panellist, said that at its fiftieth session, the Commission had emphasized that taking account of changing population age structures as part of development planning was essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda, including the eradication of poverty. Globally, the population was aging, primarily as a consequence of a reduction in the global birth rate. Initially the population would be concentrated in the working ages, followed eventually by a large but gradual increase in the number of older persons. The swelling of the working-age population, accompanied by slow or no growth in the number of children and youth, yet before the older population had substantially increased, was a phenomenon that would last for several decades and that would provide a window of opportunity for rapid development driven by accelerated growth in per capita income, owing to the favourable balance of workers to dependents.

15. Such accelerated growth could be key to ending poverty in many countries, provided the existence of various preconditions. Countries with high levels of fertility and youthful populations could usefully implement policies that were aligned with specific Sustainable Development Goals and targets and which included, inter alia, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and reproductive rights. At its fiftieth session, the Commission had drawn attention to policies which, although intended for other purposes, could benefit countries with intermediate or advanced stages of population aging, such as promoting female labour force participation and productive employment, and ensuring access to affordable child care and parental leave for both parents. Countries with aging populations should promote the health and well-being of older persons, including by investing in education and health throughout the life-course and ensuring the financial sustainability of social security and pension systems. The Commission had acknowledged the gender dimension of such policies, and, in keeping with target 4 of Sustainable Development Goal 5, there had been calls for pension systems to value unpaid care and domestic work when determining eligibility criteria and benefit levels.

16. In addition, delegations had highlighted the importance of investing in education and health, including sexual and reproductive health, and of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Investment in those areas was vital for the potential economic benefits of changing population

age structures to be realized, and for sustainable development in general. There had also been broad agreement on the need to promote youth employment and to meet the needs of older persons, who, along with children, adolescents and youth, constituted a vulnerable group requiring particular attention.

17. **Mr. Ocampo** (Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and Chair of the Committee for Development Policy), panellist, said that the Economic and Social Council, including its commissions and expert bodies, should function as a system to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee for Development Policy had chosen to focus its deliberations in 2017 on the least developed countries. It had examined countries' productive capacity, specifically that of countries that had graduated from the least developed country category or made significant development progress. Transformation of the productive structure had emerged as the common factor underlying successful development. Structural transformation generated economic growth, which in turn generated public sector resources, which were essential for social policies and social protection more broadly.

18. With regard to the theme of the integration segment of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee had identified five areas of policy that were essential for graduating from the least developed country category: development governance — how the State, with the private sector, organized a country's development; policies that created productive synergies between social outcomes and productive capacity; macroeconomic and financial policies that supported the development of productive capacity and increased resilience to external shock; industrial and sectoral policies; and international support — through trade, official development assistance (ODA) and international tax cooperation. Although the Committee did not address employment explicitly, it was the essential link between economic development and people's well-being, and was implicitly under consideration in all of its deliberations.

19. The primary lesson the Committee had learned was that different countries needed to follow different paths to development. It had identified three development models followed by least developed countries of different sizes and with different vulnerabilities. The vulnerability of least developed countries could be economic: a consequence of specialization, which concentrated a country's resources in a single area, or vulnerability to climate change or as a result of geographic isolation.

20. The first development path was generally followed by countries that were developing due to exploitation of their natural resources. They often lagged behind in terms of human assets accumulation. While becoming rich economically, they remained poor in social development terms. They needed to channel more of the income generated from natural resource exploitation into ensuring human asset accumulation. In addition, those countries must contend with the environmental damage associated with natural resource exploitation in order to be successful in the long term.

21. Countries in the second group were small and had successfully transformed their productive structures. Human assets accumulation and institution-building had enabled them to develop industries like tourism, and others linked to the small island status of some of them such as fishing. However, those countries were vulnerable: economically, due to a lack of economic diversification, and environmentally — they were threatened by climate change and the potential to lose the natural resources on which they depended.

22. Countries in the third group were larger and had undergone structural transformations leading to more diversified economies, with high productivity, manufacturing and services. Agricultural development was crucial for those countries, and particularly for the poor, most of whom depended on agriculture for their livelihoods. For those countries, the accumulation of human assets and further diversification were essential.

23. International support was critical for all three groups of countries. ODA must be well managed by the national authorities; that was part of the development governance that countries needed in order to succeed. Lastly, taxation, particularly corporate taxation, was necessary for development and low rates of taxation could undermine development.

24. **Mr. Ocampo** (Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and Chair of the Committee for Development Policy) said that the Committee for Development Policy addressed employment, and specifically the quality of employment. Growth and structural transformation were key to generating good employment. The aging of the population had a significant bearing on development, but perhaps even more important was the rapid population growth in sub-Saharan Africa. It was a major constraint on the development of many least developed countries and should be at the centre of development policies.

25. **Ms. Messmer Mokhtar** (Observer for Switzerland) said that the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council all had an important

role to play in the thematic review that would take place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and in the review of the agenda in general. In addition to its annual theme, every year the high-level political forum focused on a group of Sustainable Development Goals and their interlinkages with the rest of the agenda. She asked how the expertise and contributions of the different commissions in relation to the specific goals to be reviewed would be taken into account at the high-level political forum.

26. **Ms. Saran** (South Africa) said that it was clear that women faced many obstacles, including a lack of access to education and employment and gender-based violence. Considering that women made up more than half the world's population and more than 70 per cent of the world's poor, and in view of the current theme, she wondered what more the United Nations system could do, together with Member States, to enhance the quality of women's lives and address the issue of women's poverty.

27. **The President** asked the panellists whether chairs' summaries or negotiated outcome documents provided a better model for transmitting messages from commissions to the Economic and Social Council.

28. **Mr. Donoghue** (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, and Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session) said that Member States often felt that chairs' summaries were not legitimate because they did not accurately reflect deliberations. In addition, while negotiated outcome documents sometimes only contained the lowest common denominator, it was often possible to reach consensus on surprisingly tough language.

29. **Mr. Charwath** (Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, and Chair of the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-fifth session) said that negotiated outcome documents provided a basis for policy development because they reflected consensus, whereas chairs' summaries only reflected one perspective.

30. With regard to ensuring that their contributions were taken into consideration at the high-level political forum, the commissions' mandates, while related closely to the Sustainable Development Goals, were broader than any specific goal. In addition, the two-year cycle of the commissions' work meant that their work was not always aligned with the work of the Council; for that reason, a one-year cycle was preferable.

31. With regard to the severe discrimination suffered by women, Sustainable Development Goal 5, on gender equality, was mainstreamed throughout the rest of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission on the Status of Women had the main role to play in empowering women, and the other commissions would make contributions related to their specific mandates.

32. **Mr. Ocampo** (Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, and Chair of the Committee for Development Policy) said that the Committee for Development Policy also had negotiated outcome documents, although it was a group composed of experts rather than a functional commission. It also produced analytical studies that related to the major issues dealt with by the Council.

33. The commissions and expert bodies used the agenda for the high-level political forum to guide their work. However, if the high-level political forum was to convey a strong message, it must focus on specific issues. Useful areas of focus would be determining what kinds of international cooperation would support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and what major gaps needed to be bridged.

34. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme) proposed that the 2030 Agenda could be discussed in detail at the regional consultations organized by the regional commissions in order to allow for more selectivity in the topics discussed at the global level.

35. **Ms. Popescu** (Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations; and Vice-Chair of the Commission on Population and Development at its fiftieth session) said that it was important to have an outcome document. There was no outcome document from the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development because Member States had not been able to reach agreement on various important issues, such as sexuality education. However, the Commission had nevertheless been able to contribute to the discussion of the Council and the high-level political forum, since it had adopted decisions on certain matters, such as the special themes for its 2018 and 2019 sessions and the alignment of the Commission's cycle with the high-level political forum cycle.

36. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme) said that the challenge of policy integration was to find ways in which economic or social policies designed to support gender equality,

for instance, could also facilitate employment creation, in order to reduce youth unemployment. The discussion had made it clear that the different bodies of the Council all had common objectives: achieving growth to eradicate poverty, but specifically growth that was inclusive, would empower women, redress inequality, generate employment and build resilience. The shared goals provided grounds for strong collaboration and cooperation between the different functional commissions of the Council. While it was difficult for Governments to develop integrated policy approaches from the ground up, increased cooperation by the Council would enable the Organization to provide better policymaking guidance to Member States. If the common objectives were raised at the high-level political forum, the international community could give guidance to each of its members on how to move forward with those issues.

Panel discussion: "A multi-stakeholder approach: Roles, responsibilities and results"

37. **Ms. Ordóñez** (Research and Partnership Coordinator of Southern Voice), moderator, said that partnerships were about building trust between the different actors who would bring the 2030 Agenda to fruition. Southern Voice, a network of research centres in the Global South, was itself a partnership, which brought researchers from across the developing world together to discuss implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. In order to guide the panel discussion, she asked participants to consider what policy requirements were needed to make partnerships successful, what role the Economic and Social Council could play in creating norms that promoted partnerships, and what sort of partnerships would be most useful for poverty eradication.

39. **Ms. Labelle** (Chair of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, former Secretary of State of Canada and former President of the Canadian International Development Agency), panellist, highlighted the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that ODA targets were met and tackling illicit financial flows. Economic power must not be concentrated in the hands of the few, whose views often collided with those of the poor.

40. Multi-stakeholder approaches were of value because they brought the right kinds of expertise together; built ownership of decisions; ensured that policies were more relevant, particularly when the citizens to be affected were involved; built trust between institutions and Governments; and, if properly managed, increased transparency and accountability. Prerequisites for successful multi-stakeholder partnerships included respect for diversity and for others' points of view. All stakeholders, including businesses, civil society organizations, government entities and academics, should, to the extent possible, participate in every decision taken in partnerships.

41. Projects carried out under the United Nations Global Compact, notably in the field, had demonstrated the value of multi-stakeholder approaches. At the international level, much work had been done by the United Nations, the international financial institutions, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union. Those organizations must continue to play an important role in implementing multi-stakeholder partnerships. The following were three examples of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships.

42. A number of years previously Guatemala had been haemorrhaging funds due to illicit financial flows; at the request of the Government, Global Financial Integrity, a non-governmental organization (NGO), had conducted an analysis and followed up with a series of recommendations concerning such areas as registration of beneficial owners, transfer pricing, tax evasion, transparency in procurement and automatic exchange of tax information. With the support of Global Financial Integrity, the Government had implemented the majority of the proposed measures. Notably, it had developed a mechanism for automatically checking the prices of goods and resources around the world, so that it would not be readily taken advantage of in trade deals. Strong and sustained country leadership had been the key to its success.

43. At the regional level, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had collaborated with the African Capacity-Building Foundation to advance evidence-based tobacco control policies. Working with the African Capacity-Building Foundation had enabled the Gates Foundation to bring together a range of stakeholders including the World Health Organization, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa, economic think tanks, two South African universities, the Government of Senegal, as well as civil society organizations in a range of countries. The resulting network supported civil society organizations to work with their national governments. As a result of the partnership various African countries had, through court battles, preserved their right to protect the health of their citizens. In that partnership the use of data was critical, as was the

involvement of economic think tanks, which had managed the data.

44. Lastly, as national Governments had been devolving power over resources and services to local governments, problems had become apparent, notably the inherent risk of multiplying corruption, as local politicians were apt to want to award contracts or ensure the provision of services to their friends and neighbours. Transparency International had developed a set of comprehensive guidelines for local governance integrity, touching on every aspect of local governance including elections, contracts for service provision, land regimes and policing. Working through its chapters in over 100 countries around the world, Transparency International had been engaging with local governments to gradually enact the guidelines, bringing in other organizations as required to support work in specific areas.

45. **Ms. Kilcoyne** (Director of Government Affairs International at GlaxoSmithKline), panellist, said that three GlaxoSmithKline partnerships with non-traditional partners were worth highlighting as successful models that should be replicated. Every private company had strengths on which it sought to build its partnerships; as a health-care company GlaxoSmithKline focussed on improving access to health care and education. It currently had over 12,000 active partnerships, mainly in the area of research and development. Its partnerships were not entirely philanthropic, but mutually beneficial.

46. Four years ago GlaxoSmithKline had entered into a partnership with Save the Children with the goal of saving the lives of one million children. They had established country programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya, and would establish additional programmes in other countries. So far the partnership had allowed GlaxoSmithKline and Save the Children to reach approximately 1.3 million children through immunization, education of community health care workers, and the joint creation of a product called chlorhexidine, which was used to eliminate infection of the umbilical cord, a major cause of infant death in resource-poor settings. GlaxoSmithKline and Save the Children had made progress in the areas of nutrition, maternal and neonatal health, and advocacy. The partnership was drawing to an end, but both had agreed to continue their work.

47. In another partnership, GlaxoSmithKline and PATH had co-developed the first-ever candidate vaccine for malaria. Early tests had proven that the vaccine was safe and effective. The partners were gradually working through outstanding issues with the vaccine. Recently, The Global Fund and Gavi (the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) had agreed to fund the pilots, due to take place shortly.

48. The importance that GlaxoSmithKline attached to sustainability was best exemplified by its 20 per cent reinvestment programme. It worked with NGOs CARE International, Amref Health Africa and Save the Children to reinvest 20 per cent of the profits made in least developed countries back into health-care infrastructure in those countries. While the amount varied depending on the country, the commitment was sustainable. The funding went to educating community health-care workers through its partner organizations, who, with the relevant government entities, ensured that the programmes made an impact.

49. GlaxoSmithKline had eight criteria for partnerships: sustainability, political will, feasibility of financing, a common agenda, metrics, mutually-reinforcing activities, agreement from the top and alignment throughout the organization, and continuous communication within both of the organizations. GlaxoSmithKline was currently seeking to use advocacy to generate policy dialogue in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. Education was vital to achieving the Goals and the role of the private sector must be defined.

50. **Mr. Montes** (Senior Advisor at the South Center), panellist, said that the South Center was a Geneva-based think tank which supported developing countries through research and technical support. National Governments, government institutions, the United Nations and its various specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies, and the private sector each had distinct roles to play in multi-stakeholder partnerships to eradicate poverty.

51. However, the private sector's role was problematic. Economist Milton Friedman had written that in a free society business only had one social responsibility: to use its resources and engage in activities to increase its profits, so long as it engaged in free and open competition without deception or fraud. Friedman had been sceptical about the social responsibility of business, which could introduce inefficiencies, be used as a false justification of businesses' self-serving behaviour, or lead to coercion. Any business decision should be justified by increased profits.

52. Real life was more complex, however: in most societies and in the international sphere, business had enormous influence over rule-making and processes of choosing officials. The private sector also influenced policy through grants made by private foundations. In

view of the strong influence the private sector had on social decisions, there was a space for corporate social responsibility. Yet there was also space for scepticism regarding the social priorities of business, given that oversight of the process of their determining priorities was limited.

53. If the objective was to enlist the support of business for the achievement of Goal 1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, poverty eradication, then safeguarding democratic decision-making and respecting human rights must be seen as integral to all activities by the business sector and State agencies. All stakeholders, not only businesses, must be fully represented in social decision-making in the national context.

54. The first means of achieving Goal 1 was ensuring sufficient mobilization of resources from a variety of sources. In that regard, the private sector had an important role to play in creating jobs. It must do so in a profit-oriented manner, which would ensure that the jobs were sustainable; Governments must not subsidize private-sector job creation. States should mobilize resources for poverty reduction programmes and engage in international cooperation, such as tax cooperation. Businesses had a key role to play through their tax contributions. They could also participate in public-private partnerships, in which they would take on a share of the financial risk involved in social projects.

55. The second means of implementation was the creation of sound policy frameworks. To create such frameworks, States must set priorities and have the power to regulate. States in the United Nations system must safeguard their independence in decision-making on behalf of all stakeholders. They could provide subsidies to private sector actors in exchange for performance in priority areas. Tax incentives could increase transparency: for example, Governments could give tax incentives to businesses, such as reduced taxes in exchange for hiring local people or buying local goods. That would be better than giving profit-based tax incentives, which encouraged companies to shift profits to lower-tax jurisdictions.

56. In terms of the number of people employed and its contribution to the economy, the farming and food production sector was the biggest private sector in developing countries. It was heavily disadvantaged by inadequate investment in productivity increases. Greater investment was required to protect it from import competition from subsidized agriculture in the United States of America and European Union agricultural programmes. That private sector had a critical role to play in poverty eradication and should therefore be promoted and developed; the alternative was reliance on foreign investment for poverty reduction.

57. **Ms. Ordóñez** (Research and Partnership Coordinator of Southern Voice), summarizing, said that partnerships made decision-making processes more complex. It was important that the United Nations system should not have a prescriptive view of the form partnerships should take. Rather, it should create an enabling environment that encouraged partners to develop innovative ways of working together. She asked the panellists how the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations as a whole could create such enabling environments and encourage diverse partnerships to flourish.

58. **Ms. Labelle** (Chair of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments and former Secretary of State of Canada and former President of the Canadian International Development Agency) said that the United Nations should lead by example and involve all the relevant stakeholders in its decision-making. That would prove that multi-stakeholder partnerships were not only possible, but useful.

59. The Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies should publish information about the partnerships they were engaged in as a means of inspiring and sharing ideas with States and regional organizations.

60. **Ms. Kilcoyne** (Director of Government Affairs International at GlaxoSmithKline) said that the United Nations could use its convening power to add value. It was able to bring together diverse stakeholders who otherwise might not realize that they had common goals. Advocacy was also important; the United Nations was already creating spaces for dialogue in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, but it could do more in that regard.

61. **Mr. Montes** (Senior Advisor at the South Center) said that due to the stagnation of core funding over the past two decades, the specialized agencies of the United Nations were increasingly relying on donor funding for their projects. Donors' obligation to state exactly what their donations were being used for restricted the ability of the United Nations to experiment and meant that its agenda must remain narrow. The private sector had undue influence over the social agenda: for instance, tobacco companies that funded the World Health Organization considered that the issue of tobacco control should also entail finding jobs for those who would be put out of work by tobacco companies closing. The Member States must

pay their dues to the United Nations in order to restore core funding so that the United Nations would be able to shape its own agenda without heavy private sector influence.

62. **Ms. Ordóñez** (Research and Partnership Coordinator of Southern Voice) said that it was necessary to think about the long-term agenda, and doing that required the participation of many more voices. It was important to show the world that the United Nations was thinking of partnerships not only in relation to specific projects but also in relation to a long-term shaping of the agenda.

Closing of the segment

63. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), delivering a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said that the current session of the integration segment had succeeded in forging discussion on a holistic approach to poverty eradication globally and had provided a good lead-in to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The integration segment had emphasized that progress must be achieved across all of the Sustainable Development Goals if poverty was to be eradicated in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Integrated approaches allowed for maximization of the synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and limited potential trade-offs. Social policies had been crucial in fighting poverty and would continue to be pivotal in making social inclusion a reality. However, they must be combined with fiscal, monetary and financial, trade, industrial and labour policies, which all affected poverty and inequality. Implementation of such integrated policies required strong leadership from all stakeholders.

64. The interconnectedness of the phenomena that affected people's lives in a globalized world meant that collective action and integrated policy solutions were necessary at both the national and international levels. In addition, an integrated approach to the internationally agreed and mutually reinforcing roadmaps, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, was needed. The United Nations would address that challenge by strengthening inter-agency collaboration; the Council, specifically, would deepen its analysis on collaboration at the upcoming high-level political forum and at its high-level segment. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs stood fully ready to support improved collaboration. The United Nations as a whole was an important partner for countries, particularly when it came to global challenges requiring collective action, but it must do even better.

65. To eradicate poverty sustainably and in a truly integrated manner, it was necessary to enhance management and coordination practices, align funding practices globally and nationally to the goal of poverty eradication, reinforce partnerships and foster innovation; inter-agency and intergovernmental processes should also be strengthened, to help the United Nations to deliver as one. The Department for Economic and Social Affairs would continue to engage with new partners and explore innovative ways to help those in need within a strong institutional framework.

66. **The President** said that the main messages to take away from the meetings of the past few days were that the 2030 Agenda was at the heart of the 2017 integration segment; it called for a multi-stakeholder approach to guide policy formulation on poverty eradication. Speakers had emphasized the importance of policy coherence, highlighting the interlinkages between social protection and other economic policies, and recalled that sustained efforts towards peace and development must guarantee that achievements were not reversed by various forms of vulnerability. Inclusive policies were an absolute must if no one was to be left behind. Empowering women, educating and training youth and protecting smallholder farmers against disaster were all fundamental to the shared goal of eradicating poverty and propelling sustainable, inclusive development.

67. The need to mainstream poverty eradication in the work of the United Nations, including that of its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, had been emphasized. The United Nations must intensify its efforts to promote multilateralism and make the best use of its convening power. The regional commissions played an important role in supporting policy integration to eradicate poverty. The Economic and Social Council could be instrumental in conceptual leadership on policy integration; specifically, it could lead the proposed United Nations inter-agency task force to guide policy integration. At the session on national experiences, the need for increased human resource development and baseline data collection had been raised.

68. There had been an across-the-board emphasis on the need for integrated poverty reduction policies, which needed to be inclusive and transparent in their design, with an emphasis on knowledge sharing. Innovative instruments for poverty eradication had been discussed and participants had learned how "big

data" could provide real-time support to policymakers, and how experiences of empowering rural communities in South Asia could lead to improvements in people's livelihoods, to ultimately benefit national development.

69. Several current trends, including rapid economic growth, were conducive to successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Africa. However, economic growth in many African economies had not fully translated into poverty reduction. There was a need for policies and strategies to ensure that growth was inclusive and sustainable; critically, it was necessary to tackle illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development. A paradigm shift was needed with regard to resource mobilization for African development, in view of the reduction in ODA and other sources of financing, and the emergence of new development partners.

70. Co-chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council had showcased the full range of expertise that they had to offer, including on gender, women's empowerment, persons with disabilities, youth under-employment and the issue of ageing and the demographic dividend. Employment implicitly linked those various elements, which were crucial for poverty eradication. Making the Economic and Social Council system work in support of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be key. It was necessary to strengthen collaboration between the functional commissions, including by aligning their work cycles with that of the Council, in order to better inform policymaking by Member States.

71. Citizens' participation was important, to build capacity and collect evidence on the ground. It had been noted that trust was essential to public-private partnerships and innovative models of collaboration. To that end, roles, responsibilities and results needed to be clarified. Respect for human rights and fostering inclusive decision-making should underpin a multi-stakeholder approach to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 and its targets. Joint work on implementation of the 2030 Agenda was just beginning.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.